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Working Paper on the Toxin Amendment to the United Kingdom draft Convention for the Prohibition of Biological Methods of Warfare

The United States proposes that toxins be added to the agents whose use is prohibited by Article I of the UK draft Convention (ENDC/255/Rev.1 of 26 August 1969). The U.S. also proposes that the phrase "by infection or infestation" be deleted. Article I would then read as follows:

ARTICLE I

Each of the Parties to the Convention undertakes, insofar as it may not already be committed in that respect under Treaties or other instruments in force prohibiting the use of chemical and biological methods of warfare, never, in any circumstances, by making use for hostile purposes of microbial or other biological agents or toxins causing death, damage or disease to man, other animals, or crops, to engage in biological methods of warfare.

With reference to Article II(a)(i), the United States proposes that the words "or toxins" be inserted after the phrase "microbial or other biological agents" so that the prohibitions and requirements contained in that Article apply to toxins as well.

The first part of Article II, amended, would then read as follows:

ARTICLE II

"Each of the Parties to the Convention undertakes:

(a) not to produce or otherwise acquire, or assist in or permit the production or acquisition of:

(i) microbial or other biological agents or toxins of types and in quantities that have no independent justification for prophylactic or other peaceful purposes; ...."

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